

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 ISO-00 INR-10 INRE-00

IO-13 NEA-10 SSO-00 PM-05 NSCE-00 EUR-12 /079 W

-----057726 311302Z /14-S

O 311153Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7887

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1508

LAGOS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PEPR, ET, SO, DJ, US

SUBJ: MOFA URGES HIGH-LEVEL USG COMMENT ON DJIBOUTI

REF: A) STATE 081725, B) ADDIS ABABA 1472

1. MOFA AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD BERHANE DERESSE CONFIRMED DURING MEETING MARCH 31 TO BRIEF HIM ON MOOSE-SIAD TALKS (REF A) THAT HIS ORAL RESPONSE ON MARCH 29 TO OUR WRITTEN PROTEST WAS NOW OFFICIAL WITH ONE EXCESPTION. (AS ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL, HIS ORIGINAL REACTION HAD BEEN ONE OF WELCOME AND COMFORT.)

2. OUR NOTE HAD SAID, "DJIBOUTI WAS NOT MENTIONED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 10 ONLY BECAUSE SOMALIA CLEARLY INDICATED A COMMITMENT TO RESPECT DJIBOUTI'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE AT THE TIME THAT THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI CHOSE INDEPENDENCE. THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WAS MADE IN TERMS OF TWO
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COUNTRIES WHICH WERE PERCEIVED TO BE UNDER ACTIVE THREAT OF SOMALI ACTIONS." BERHANE VOLUNTEERED THAT SOMALIA HAD NOT, IN FACT, OPPOSED DJIBOUTI'S ENTRY INTO UN (HE REMEMBERED FROM HAVING BEEN AT UNGA SESSION), BUT THIS WAS NOT RPT NOT TANTAMOUNT TO RENOUNCING THE CLAIMS IN ITS CONSTITUTION AND ON ITS FLAG TO DJIBOUTI. HE KNEW OF NO OTHER SOMALI COMMITMENT TO RESPECT DJIBOUTI

AND, IN MEANTIME, SOMALIA IS KNOWN TO BE TRYING TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH ARE THREAT TO DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE AND ETHIOPIA'S VITAL INTERESTS THERE, HE SAID.

3. HE FURTHER WELCOMED OUR SPECIFIC MENTION OF DJIBOUTI IN TALKING POINTS (COPY OF WHICH WAS LEFT WITH HIM) ON MOOSE-SIAD TALKS AND IN MY VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM. HOWEVER, SINCE PROTEST NOTE INDICATES DJIBOUTI HAD BEEN PURPOSELY LEFT OUT OF PRESIDENT'S MARCH 10 REMARKS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM IN ALLAYING FEARS AT HIGHER LEVELS OF GOVT IF A WAY COULD BE FOUND FOR A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENT TO INCLUDE MENTION OF DJIBOUTI.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW HOW FAR DEPARTMENT WANTS TO GO TO PLACATE ETHIOPIA. BUT SINCE CALL UPON SOMALIA TO MAKE CLEAR ITS RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THREE NEIGHBORS IS U.S. POLICY, SOME PUBLIC MENTION OF OUR OWN RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF DJIBOUTI WOULD SEEM TO DO NO HARM AND COULD HELP HERE AND PRESUMABLY IN DJIBOUTI.

5. DO NOT KNOW WHETHER PRESIDENT PLANS TO MENTION HORN OF AFRICA IN HIS LAGOS ADDRESS, BUT THERE COULD BE NO MORE DRAMATIC PLACE TO MAKE POINT SUGGESTED ABOVE.

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6. BERHANE'S REACTIONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY TURNED OUT TO BE RELIABLE, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THIS ONE. MATHERON

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